

3901 Argyle Ter. NW
Washington, DC 20011
September 6, 2019

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

I am writing in my personal capacity to express my strong support for the confirmation of Eugene Scalia to be Secretary of Labor. I have been a lawyer for over 50 years and spent the early part of my career in all three branches of government – as a law clerk to Fifth Circuit Judge John Minor Wisdom, an attorney in the Department of Justice Office of Legal Counsel, and a senior counsel for Senator Edward Kennedy on the Senate Judiciary Committee. I have also worked in the private sector, including 27 years as a partner in a major law firm and over a decade with a large nonprofit association, and I got to know Gene personally and professionally during that time. I have also known his family for over four decades.

Gene's intellectual and professional qualifications, as outlined on his resume, are both stellar and obvious. But his personal attributes and character are even more impressive and remarkable. Gene is precisely the kind of person that our country needs in the Cabinet: experienced, ethical, professional, open-minded, fair, and brilliant. We certainly have our political differences, but that does not stand in the way of my stepping forward to voice enthusiastic support for him.

The idea that a lawyer should be judged by positions he or she takes for clients belies our nation's history of taking pride in an independent legal profession that stands ready to serve all clients and interests that need effective counsel—whether popular or unpopular, claimants or defendants, employees or management. The question should not be what side the lawyer was representing, but whether the lawyer did so with diligence, honesty, integrity, candor, energy, even-handedness, and respect for both the opposing parties and our legal institutions. By this measurement, Gene Scalia deserves tremendous accolades.

I urge you to confirm Gene without delay. I am confident that he will serve the Department and our nation with dignity, honor, and distinction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Susman", with a stylized, flowing script.

Thomas M. Susman

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions